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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/683,329	12/14/2001	Robert C.U. Yu	D/A0A96Q	8628

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OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. BOX 19928
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320

EXAMINER

PIAZZA CORCORAN, GLADYS JOSEFINA

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1733

DATE MAILED: 12/20/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



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EXAMINER

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20051214

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Commissioner for Patents

See attached Response to Remand to Examiner.


Gladys JP Corcoran
Primary Examiner
Art Unit: 1733

Response to Remand to the Examiner by The Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences

The Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences remanded the instant Application on October 27, 2005 to the Examiner for consideration and explanations of issues raised by the record, in particular for interpreting the appealed claims with respect to the terms and the relationship between the elements encompassed by the terms "pattern template", "mask", "patterned mask", "on" and "over".

These terms are used in the appealed claims to describe the step of removing material from the substrate support sheet.

In the appealed claims, a "pattern template" is placed "on" or "over" the substrate support sheet. This template prevents emissions (from a laser source) from striking the substrate support sheet in the areas where the template is placed on the substrate support sheet. These limitations were clearly presented in the original claims and also are described in the abstract and in the original Specification in paragraphs [0031], [0033], and [0035], where it is disclosed that it is known to form puzzle cut shapes on substrate support sheets, and in paragraph [0066], where it is disclosed that the puzzle cut shapes are formed through the use of a template ("Additionally, features, such as the puzzle cut, can be imposed by placing a template opaque to the emissions used over the straight cut end portion of the substrate support sheet to be ablated"). The Examiner's Answer filed January 10, 2005 addresses these limitations on page 6 by stating that it is well known and conventional in the art to use a template when shaping

the ends of a sheet with a laser as exemplified by Schlueter '301. Schlueter '301 shows an example in the art of forming "puzzle cut" shapes on the end of a substrate by placing a template on the substrate with the shape desired for the cut end of the substrate. The issue of the "pattern template" is also discussed on pages 13-15 of the Examiner's Answer filed January 10, 2005 under the heading "Templates".

In some of the appealed claims, the emissions (from the laser) is passed through a "mask" or a "patterned mask" (with no positional relationship between the mask and the support substrate sheet required). Additionally, no relationship between the "template" and the "mask" is required. The "mask" is a structure which shapes the emissions (of the laser beam) prior to the emissions being directed towards the substrate support sheet for removing portions of the substrate support sheet. Figure 7 of the original Specification shows an example of the "mask" as the structure with reference numerals 80 (structure) and 81 (mask). The Examiner's Answer filed January 10, 2005 addresses these limitations on page 8 by stating that the reference Yu discloses the laser beam emissions are passed through a mask.

There does not appear to be any suggestion, when reading the original Specification as a whole, that the "pattern template" and the "mask" (or "patterned mask") are the same element having the same function for the same purpose. These elements are clearly different elements.

Conclusion


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gladys JP Corcoran whose telephone number is (571)

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272-1214. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8am-5:30pm (alternate Fridays off).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Crispino can be reached on (571) 272-1226. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Gladys JP Corcoran
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1733

GJPC